

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 172746

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 172746

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. CALLAGHAN WINS HIGH MARKS FOR THE FIRST HUNDRED DAYS

EMBASSY LONDON GIVES PRIME MINISTER CALLAGHAN HIGH MARKS FOR HIS INITIAL THREE MONTHS IN OFFICE. CAUTIOUS BUT CONFIDENT, HE HAS:

--REDUCED INFLATION, STABILIZED UNEMPLOYMENT, AND INCREASED ECONOMIC GROWTH;

--USED HIS CONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE WITH THE LABOR MOVEMENT TO KEEP THE UNIONS PULLING WITH THE GOVERNMENT;

--DEFUSED THE HATRED WILSON ENGENDERED IN THE PARLIAMENTARY PARTY; AND

--SKILLFULLY DEALT WITH THE OPPOSITION IN THE COMMONS.

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PAGE 02 STATE 172746

THE EMBASSY CAUTIONS, HOWEVER, THAT THE PRIME MINISTER:

--HAS YET TO MEET HIS FIRST MAJOR ECONOMIC TEST;

--MUST STILL RESOLVE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS THROUGH TOUGH
SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC POLICIES, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME

KEEPING HIS PARTY TOGETHER AND HIS TINY PARLIAMENTARY
MAJORITY INTACT; AND

--MUST SEEK A SOLUTION, BEGINNING IN NOVEMBER, TO THE
CRITICAL ISSUE OF SCOTLAND'S ROLE IN THE UNITED KING-
DOM. (CONFIDENTIAL) LONDON 10820, 7/12.)

2. PRAVDA FORDS THE STREAM TO CARTER

IN A JULY 11 ARTICLE ON THE US ELECTION A PRAVDA COMMENTA-
TOR HELD THAT:

--THERE IS NO ESSENTIAL DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE FOREIGN
POLICY VIEWS OF PRESIDENT FORD AND GOVERNOR CARTER.

--THE DISPUTE BETWEEN THE TWO CONCERNS ONLY "METHODS
OF PREPARING SOLUTIONS, PRIORITIES, AND DIPLOMATIC
STYLE."

EMBASSY COMMENT: THIS IS THE FIRST MAJOR SOVIET STATEMENT
EQUATING THE FOREIGN POLICIES OF GOVERNOR CARTER AND THE
CURRENT ADMINISTRATION. THE MESSAGE IS THAT THE USSR CAN
LIVE WITH GOVERNOR CARTER SHOULD HE BE ELECTED. (LIMITED
OFFICIAL USE) MOSCOW 10930, 7/12.)

3. SPAIN: CAN SUAREZ REGROUP THE CENTER?

ALVAREZ DE MIRANDA, RESPECTED LEADER OF THE CENTER-LEFT
CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC POPULAR PARTY, TOLD AMBASSADOR STABLER
THAT THE ORGANIZATION OF THE SUAREZ GOVERNMENT FURTHER FAC-
TIONALIZED THE CENTER BY:

--NOT RETAINING AREILZA, THE POLITICAL FIGURE WITH THE
MOST CREDIBILITY AMONG THE DEMOCRATIC GROUPS; AND

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PAGE 03 STATE 172746

--SELECTING THE NEW CABINET ON THE BASIS OF CONSULTA-
TION WITH INDIVIDUALS RATHER THAN WITH THE POLITICAL
PARTIES AS SUCH.

ALVAREZ, HOWEVER, BELIEVES THE CENTER SHOULD SUPPORT THE
GOVERNMENT BECAUSE, IF SUAREZ FAILS, FUTURE OPTIONS MAY BE
"UNPLEASANT" AND COULD INCLUDE A "MILITARY DIRECTORATE."
HE WARNED THAT:

--OUT OF POLITICAL NECESSITY, THE GOVERNMENT MAY PUT
POLITICAL REFORM AHEAD OF UNPOPULAR ECONOMIC MEASURES.

--THE KING HAS ILL-ADVISEDLY INVOLVED HIS PRESTIGE IN
THE SUAREZ GOVERNMENT, MAKING ITS SUCCESS A SERIOUS
TEST OF THE MONARCHY'S FUTURE. (CONFIDENTIAL) MADRID
5343, 7/10.) KISSINGER

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